

time President Clinton stopped talking, and start delivering on his promises.

Where is your pen, Mr. President? The country needs welfare reform.

#### THE SPECULATORS VERSUS THE PEOPLE

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, it is the speculators versus the people. The bear is on Wall Street. A good example of what is happening to this country occurred last Friday when the country received good news: Unemployment had dropped to 5.3 percent; a quarter of a million new people were added to the payrolls in America; the average hourly wage, biggest increase in 1 month in recorded history, 9 cents in that 1 month. And what happens on Wall Street? Pandemonium breaks loose. The Dow Jones average goes down 114 points, 30-year Treasury bonds leap a quarter of a point.

The bears on Wall Street make their living by betting on the next Federal Reserve decision. The Federal Reserve needs to hold the line on interest rates so that we can have true welfare reform, so we do not lock in 5 to 6 million people on unemployment because of decisions that are made to benefit speculators in this country.

#### WISCONSIN IS WAITING FOR WAIVER ON WELFARE

(Mr. KLUG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLUG. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, President Clinton went on national radio and called Wisconsin Works a solid, bold welfare reform proposal. Several days later he repeated the same line in the State of Wisconsin. When Governor Thompson submitted Wisconsin's bold welfare program to the bureaucrats here in Washington, they said they needed 1 month to review it. Guess what. One month expired yesterday, and we are not in month No. 2. In Wisconsin we have a rather simple idea. We think you should replace welfare with work.

How much longer will we have to wait for the bureaucrats in Washington to give us their stamp of approval to finally put in place what the President called a solid, bold welfare reform plan. Am I optimistic that the approvals just around the corner will consider this fact? There are 28 welfare waiver applications currently pending from 19 different States, some dating back almost 3 years. Mr. Speaker, how long will the State of Wisconsin have to wait? One more month? Three more months? One more year? Three more years?

Mr. Speaker, we should ask the President, where is the waiver application the State of Wisconsin needs for its bold welfare reform proposal?

#### MINIMUM WAGE IS A MORAL ISSUE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to stop blocking action on the minimum wage. I have said it before and I will say it again here today: Raising the minimum wage is not just an economic issue, it is a moral issue; it is the right thing to do.

The Republicans in this House tried to block an increase in the minimum wage and failed. The Republicans in the Senate tried to block it and failed. Having lost on the floor, Republicans now are holding the minimum wage hostage. The Republicans in Congress will do anything to deny hard-working people a small raise.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader, I know you vowed to fight an increase in the minimum wage with every fiber in your being, but you cannot fight the will of the American people forever.

One thing is for sure, come November, working people will remember.

#### WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, again, President Bill Clinton has dropped the ball on welfare reform. During his 1992 campaign, Bill Clinton promised to end welfare as we known it. But when given the opportunity, Bill Clinton broke his promise—he vetoed welfare reform, not once, but twice.

Thirty days ago, Bill Clinton promised to take action on Wisconsin's welfare waiver request. Well, the 30 days are up, and again we see that Bill Clinton cannot be trusted to keep his word. Again, he has broken his promises and again he has done nothing about one of the most pressing problems in this country.

Mr. Speaker, what is it going to take? Why can't Bill Clinton keep his promises?

Millions of Americans are stuck in a cycle of welfare dependence and poverty, and all the White House can do is worry about its poll numbers and play partisan political games. Bill Clinton should keep his promise to reform welfare and finally begin showing leadership.

#### SAFE DRINKING WATER

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans seem to be obsessed with this welfare business but there are some issues that are much bigger than welfare. Clean drinking water in this

country is something that everybody needs, whether you are Republican or Democrat.

The front page of the Washington Post has a story that you cannot drink the water in Washington, DC.

Now, if you look at USA Today they are talking about Washington State and the problems with drinking water there.

Yet this House dawdles and does not appoint the conferees to deal with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Now, it is amazing to me that you can sit here and talk about some welfare waiver when, in fact, this city, the capital of the United States, the most powerful country in the world, if you come to my office or come to the Speaker's office or any other office, they will not get you a glass of water from the tap.

Every one of us drinks bottled water in this building. You go in those Cloak-rooms, both sides, you have bottled water.

The American people are entitled to safe drinking water. Appoint the conferees, Mr. Speaker.

#### CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC POLICY EFFECTS

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, many Americans feel that under the Clinton administration economic policies, they are worse off. The reason why they feel that way is because they are worse off.

Under Clinton administration economic policies, real median family income has had a zero annual growth rate. That compares with a 1.7-percent annual growth rate between 1983 and 1989.

Under Clinton administration policies, wages and salaries declined by 2.3 percent between March 1994 and March 1995, the largest drop on record in the post World War II era. Under Clinton administration policies, real average weekly earnings fell in 1995 by three-tenths of 1 percent. Under Clinton administration policies, the median household has lost eight-tenths of 1 percent of their purchasing power.

The Nation has seen the GDP grow at 1.4 percent. That is one-third of the economic growth during the Reagan years.

Under Clinton, had normal recovery circumstances applied, 11.2 million jobs would have been created. Clinton only got 7.7 million jobs. We have had a bad economic performance under this President.

#### STRIKING THE ERGONOMIC RIDER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, later this morning the House will vote on my amendment to the Labor, HHS bill which would strike the extreme rider which ties OSHA's hands on repetitive